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Patent Docket P2730P1C45

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Avi Ashkenazi et al. Examiner: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: 09/997573

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage, as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

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August 28, 2002

Patricia Terrill

# PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

#### In the specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, line 2, that was previously added by preliminary amendment.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 2:

## -- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/941992 filed 8/28/2001, which is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, PCT Application PCT/US00/08439 filed 3/30/2000, which claims priority under 35 USC §119 to US Provisional Application 60/144758 filed 7/20/1999, where PCT/US00/08439 is a continuation-in-part of,

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and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/380137 filed 8/25/1999, which is the National Stage filed under 35 USC §371 of PCT Application PCT/US99/12252 filed 6/2/1999, which claims priority under 35 USC §119 to US Provisional Application 60/096894 filed 8/17/1998.--